

1. (Three Times Amended) A nonwoven fabric containing thermoplastic microfibers, said nonwoven fabric comprising:

thermoplastic synthetic fibers being about 5 to about 30 mm long and as fine as about 0.1 to 0.8 d, in about 90 to 10% by weight, mixed and mechanically entangled with pulp fibers being about 2 to 7 mm long, in about 10 to 90% by weight, so as to have a basis weight of about 10 to 80 g/m² as a whole,

said fabric being in the form of a sheet having a plurality of protuberances that project from a surface of the sheet and said thermoplastic synthetic fibers being non-fused throughout said fabric.

9. (Twice Amended) A nonwoven fabric containing thermoplastic microfibers, said nonwoven fabric comprising:

thermoplastic synthetic fibers being about 5 to about 30 mm long and having a fineness of about 0.1 to 0.8 d, in about 90 to 10% by weight, mixed and mechanically entangled with pulp fibers being about 2 to 7 mm long, in about 10 to 90% by weight, so as to have a basis weight of about 10 to 80 g/m² as a whole,

said fabric being in the form of a sheet having a plurality of protuberances that project from a surface of the sheet, said protuberances having curved peaks, and said thermoplastic synthetic fibers being non-fused throughout said fabric.